

BOROUGH OF CALNE

THE

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

for the

YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER

- 1 9 5 1 -

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

C.L. Broomhead, M.D.,B.Ch.,D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs
of Chippenham and Malmesbury, and the Rural
Districts of Calne & Chippenham, and Malmesbury.

(b) SANITARY INSPECTOR

T.V. Oliver, M.I.Mun.E.,M.S.I.A.

(who in addition holds the post of Borough Surveyor)

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Calne Town Council.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my
Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1951.

Scarlet Fever, Measles and Whooping
Cough all show some increase during the year, but there were
no cases of Infantile Paralysis or Diphtheria notified.

The pattern of infectious disease
appears to be changing. Diphtheria, thanks to immunisation is
fast disappearing. A large proportion of infants are not
vaccinated against Smallpox. This is to be regretted as the
speed of present day communications permits the entry into the
country of patients during the incubating period of the disease.
The disease therefore falls on fertile ground.

The exciting cause of practically all
illness has now been discovered and there would appear to be no
justification for an attitude of mind which looks upon illness
as inevitable. Local Authorities, Acts of Parliament, etc.
all contribute to Public Health, but it should not be forgotten
that each member of the community has also a personal responsib-
ility for his own state of health and well being.

Investigations on behalf of the
Medical Research Council into the presence of the virus of
Infantile Paralysis in Calne Sewage were carried out during
April and June. A laboratory report of specimens taken during
June indicated that the virus was present.

I would like to record my thanks to
Mr. Oliver and his staff for the great help I received during
this investigation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD,

Medical Officer of Health.



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GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	1276
Population	5711
Number of inhabited houses(at 31.12.51 according to Rate Book)	1712
Rateable Value(as at 1.4.51)	£33,188
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£133.3.9.

VITAL STATISTICSLIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	40	40	80
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Total Live Births	40	41	81

Birth Rate for the Borough 14.1 per 1000
of the
population.

Comparative Rate for England & Wales 15.5 per 1000
of the
population.

The Birth Rate and the Comparative Rate for England and Wales show a decrease as compared with the estimate for 1950, when the Birth Rate for the Borough was 17.0 per 1000 of the population. The Comparative Rate for England and Wales was 15.8 per 1000 of the population.

STILL BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total Still Births	1	2	3

Rate per 1000 of the population 0.52

Comparative Rate per 1000 of the population
for England and Wales 0.36

The above table of Still Births indicates a slight increase over the 1950 statistics when two still births were recorded, giving a rate per 1000 of the population of 0.36

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the general principles of the theory of the structure of the atom. It is shown that the structure of the atom is determined by the laws of quantum mechanics, which are based on the principle of the uncertainty of the position and momentum of the particles. The structure of the atom is therefore not a fixed one, but a variable one, depending on the conditions of observation.

2. The second part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the experimental results obtained in the study of the structure of the atom. It is shown that the experimental results are in good agreement with the theoretical predictions of quantum mechanics. The structure of the atom is therefore not a fixed one, but a variable one, depending on the conditions of observation.

3. The third part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the applications of the theory of the structure of the atom. It is shown that the theory of the structure of the atom has many important applications in the fields of physics, chemistry, and biology. The structure of the atom is therefore not a fixed one, but a variable one, depending on the conditions of observation.

4. The fourth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the future of the theory of the structure of the atom. It is shown that the theory of the structure of the atom is still in the early stages of development, and there are many problems that need to be solved. The structure of the atom is therefore not a fixed one, but a variable one, depending on the conditions of observation.

5. The fifth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the conclusions of the study. It is shown that the structure of the atom is not a fixed one, but a variable one, depending on the conditions of observation. The structure of the atom is therefore not a fixed one, but a variable one, depending on the conditions of observation.

DEATHS

	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	33	37	70
Death Rate for the Borough			12.2 per 1000 of the population.
Comparative Rate for England and Wales			12.5 per 1000 of the population.

The Death Rate for the Borough, although slightly less than the Comparative Rate for England and Wales, indicates an increase over the rate for 1950 when it was 9.7 per 1000 of the population.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other.	-	1	1
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm stomach	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	1	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	1	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous sys.	2	9	11
Coronary disease angina	6	1	7
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
Other heart disease	4	12	16
Other circulatory disease	-	2	2
Influenza	1	-	1
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Bronchitis	3	-	3
Other diseases of resp. system	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis, Nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill defined dis.	3	-	3
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	-	4	4
Suicide	-	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
Total all causes:-	<u>33</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>70</u>

It will be seen from the above table that Coronary disease and Heart Disease contribute largely to the causes of death. Deaths from malignant disease remain fairly constant.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Table "A"

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:-	3	-	3

Infant Mortality Rate:-

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age
per 1,000 live births.37.0

Comparative rate for England & Wales29.6

The cause of death of the infants shown in above table was given as Prematurity in all three cases.

Table "B"

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:-

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:	3	-	3

It should be noted that the deaths recorded in Table "B" have already been shown in Table "A".

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during 1951 as compared with 1949 and 1950.

DISEASE.	1949		1950		1951	
	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	5	5	1	1	11	11
Whooping Cough	6	6	24	24	39	39
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	105	105	-	-	46	46
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	2	2	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	1	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	1	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	2	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	119	119	28	28	98	98

Although the above table shows some increase of Scarlet Fever, Measles and Whooping Cough, no cases of Infantile Paralysis were notified during the year.

It is gratifying that not a single case of Diphtheria occurred. To maintain this satisfactory state of health, it is essential that Diphtheria Immunisation be maintained at a high level. It is estimated that only 28% of children throughout the country are immunised before their first birthday.

No individual cases or major outbreaks of food poisoning were notified. Some improvement in clean food handling and distribution has probably contributed to this desirable result. The recommendations contained in the Report of the Catering Trade Working Party on "Hygiene in Catering Establishments" deserve early consideration however if a high standard is to be maintained.

"a" - Numbers originally notified.

"b" - Final Numbers after correction.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Distribution according to age
Notifications received during 1951 - Corrected Figures.

DISEASE	under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Over 65	Age Unknown	Total.
Scarlet Fever	-	1	8	3	1	1	1	1	11
Whooping Cough	2	20	17	-	-	-	-	-	39
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	6	25	15	-	-	-	-	46
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebral Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	2	26	50	18	-	-	-	2	98

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases of tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during the year show a slight increase as compared with previous years.

NEW CASES DURING.

YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948	4	-	4
1949	-	-	-
1950	2	-	2
1951	4	-	4

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.
DURING 1951 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESP.		NON-RESP.		RESP.		NON-RESP.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								1
1								
5								
15								
25		1						
35								
45	1	1						
55								
65 upwards.		1						
TOTALS:-	1	3						1

The above figures are too small to permit of any conclusions. It should be understood that they do not represent the total number of individuals suffering from tuberculosis within the Borough. In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous persons either move into the Borough, or move out. Remaining on the Register of Tuberculous Persons at the end of 1951 were the following cases:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>PULMONARY</u>	8	8	16
<u>NON-PULMONARY</u>	1	3	4
<u>TOTAL:-</u>	9	11	20

Although Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 places the responsibility for the after care of Tuberculous patients upon County and County Borough Councils, the environment; i.e. housing of the tuberculous patient can be determined by Borough and District Councils as the Housing Authority. In order that treatment can be carried out at home, and to diminish the spread of infection, adequate and satisfactory housing accommodation is of vital importance.

The National Assistance Act, 1948

Sec. 47 Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

Elderly folk should preferably remain in their own homes and surroundings. They are happier and provided they are not suffering or neglected, the provision of a Home Help usually meets all requirements.

Statutory action to enforce removal to a suitable Hospital or Institution is only considered after the assistance provided by Home Helps, Health Visitors and Welfare Officers has failed to provide the care and attention required.

The National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, came into operation on the 1st. September, 1951. This simplifies the legal procedure set out in the original Act of 1948. The aged and infirm in urgent need of care and attention may now be dealt with expeditiously by the Medical Officer of Health, duly authorised by the Local Authority, and another registered medical practitioner.

No action under the above Acts was required during 1951.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following children received Primary Immunisations during 1951:-

Under 1 year 42; Ages 1 - 4 yrs. 61; Ages 5-14 12;

Total Immunised child population at 31.12.51 is as follows:-

Ages 0 - 4 yrs 294; Ages 5 - 14 yrs. 834;

Total:- 1,128

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (Mr. T.V. Oliver) and Mr. C. Gunning, Water Manager for the following information concerning Water Supplies, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal and Sanitation.

RAINFALL

The rainfall is recorded at the Sewage Disposal Works, the reading being taken at 9.0 a.m. every day; from this information the following table has been compiled:-

MONTH	TOTAL RAINFALL INCHES.	GREATEST FALL IN 24 HRS.	NO. OF DAYS WITH .01 OR MORE RECORDED.
JANUARY	2.84	.66 5th.	17
FEBRUARY	4.37	.55 24th.	19
MARCH	3.54	.47 13th.	19
APRIL	2.98	.84 8th.	14
MAY	2.04	.65 26th.	17
JUNE	1.22	.47 12th.	11
JULY	1.36	.40 30th.	7
AUGUST	4.92	.92 6th.	18
SEPTEMBER	2.93	.79 27th.	14
OCTOBER	0.55	.10 20th.	10
NOVEMBER	6.32	.94 5th.	25
DECEMBER	2.05	.32 28th.	14
	35.12	- -	185

During the year there was a PARTIAL DROUGHT between 28th. September and 27th. October, inclusive. There was a wet spell between 28th. October and 12th. November inclusive.

In the previous year July was the wettest month (6.52 inches) and January was the driest (0.50 inches).

The average rainfall for the previous 5 years was 31.42 inches.

Jan.Feb.Mar.Apr.May Jun.Jul.Aug.Sep.Oct.Nov.Dec. TOTAL

WET DAYS	14	17	17	12	13	5	6	15	11	6	23	12	151
RAIN DAYS	3	2	2	2	4	6	1	3	3	4	2	2	34
DRY DAYS	14	9	12	16	14	19	24	13	16	21	5	17	180

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Undertaking has been owned by the Town Council since December, 1947. The area served by the Calne Water Orders 1882 to 1938 includes the Municipal Borough and the Parish of Calne Without in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

The supply is obtained from Lower Greensand Springs at Calstone Wellington, about three miles to the South-East of the town in the Rural District of Calne and Chippenham.

It is of good quality and non-plumbo solvent. The water is chlorinated at the source. A complaint was received from the tenant of a Council house, occupied by him for about 18 months, that the town water had a deleterious effect on his aluminium kettle owing to the deposit of copper sulphate. A sample of the tap water was obtained and the Analyst confirmed that the sample submitted contained copper in solution (0.05 parts per 100,000) but that this amount is quite insufficient to cause any ill-effects to consumers.

WATER SUPPLIES (Continued)

The number of houses in the Borough still relying on well water for their domestic supply is 14, or less than one per centum of all the inhabited houses in the district. Three of these houses are beyond the existing water mains and of the others the wells have been subjected to analyses and have in general been passed as fit for potable purposes.

670 yards of 3" and 320 yards of 4" water main were laid during the year, all on the Bryans Close Housing Estate.

A piped supply to the Mile Elm district of Calne Without will be carried out as soon as the necessary water mains become available, probably by the summer of next year.

At the end of the year negotiations were about to take place with the Calne Millowners' Association seeking their agreement to the Town Council extracting a further 450,000 gallons a week from the springs comprising the source of the River Marden, before application is made to the Minister for his approval to this proposal.

With regard to the future policy of the Water Undertaking, the Committee recommended, following an inspection of the Works on Friday the 14th. December, and after considering the report of the Medical Officer of Health, that it would be helpful to obtain the opinion of a Consulting Engineer on the lay-out and construction of the works generally and on the question of storage capacity and electrification of the pumps in particular.

During the year 11 bacteriological examinations of the raw water were made, two samples were reported as showing no evidence of bacteriological pollution, 4 samples very slight or very small degree of non-faecal pollution, 1 sample moderate degree of non-faecal pollution, and one sample very considerable degree of non-faecal pollution. Three samples slight or small degree of non faecal pollution.

Six examinations of samples of water going into supply were made, results in all cases showed no evidence of bacteriological pollution.

The Chemical Report on the latest sample taken is as follows:-

Appearance: Clear, Colourless: no sediment. Reaction pH 7.1

Parts per 100,000

Free Carbon Dioxide	3.3
Free and Saline Ammonia	less than .001
Albuminoid Ammonia	.003
Chlorine (as Chlorides)	1.1
equivalent to Sodium Chloride	1.8
Oxygen absorbed (4 hrs)	0.024
Nitrite	absent
Nitrogen in Nitrate and Nitrite	0.26
Total Solids	41.5
Loss on Ignition	3.0
Appearance on Ignition	Slight Charring
Hardness Temporary	28.8
Permanent	2.6
	<u>31.4</u>
Lead and Copper	Absent
Zinc	Absent

WATER SUPPLIES (Continued).

There are no street standpipes.

No complaints of shortage of water were received during the year.

The consumption per capita per diem is 20 gallons for domestic purposes and 6 gallons for trade purposes.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Practically the whole of the developed portion of the Borough is now sewered, although there will always be, of necessity, a few houses, mostly isolated, which either drain into septic tanks, or are provided with earth closets.

The number of houses not connected to the main drainage system at the end of 1951 was 97 or less than 6% of all the inhabited houses in the district. About one-half of this number are outside the drainage area.

The condition of the outfall sewer, which has been in existence for nearly 70 years, gives rise to constant anxiety, particularly where it runs parallel with and/or close to the River Marden. A scheme is being prepared for an enlarged outfall sewer on a new alignment in the Marden Valley between the town and the Disposal Works.

Some 360 lineal yards of foul water sewer has been added this year, all on the Bryans Close Estate. The main sewer has been laid deep enough to allow for extension in a northerly direction, which is the normal development of the Bryans Close Estate and which has been visualised and provided for in the present lay-out.

The length of town sewers is approximately 9 miles to which must be added the length of the outfall sewer and effluent sewer from the outfall works to the river approximately 2 miles.

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated in the Rural District of Calne & Chippenham, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the North-West of the town, and were modernised in 1928 at a cost of approximately £19,000.

Nevertheless, with the continual growth of the town and the possibility of taking the sewage from the hamlets of Derry Hill and Studley in the Parish of Calne Without (Calne and Chippenham Rural District Council), the enlargement of the Works is under review.

In the meantime, as the average dry-weather flow is more than double the amount for which the works were originally designed, blocks of "Alumino ferric" are placed in the inlet channels of the continuous flow sedimentation tanks to assist in the precipitation of the sewage, thus relieving the amount of work the filter beds are called upon to do. It is estimated that by this method the capacity of the works has been temporarily increased by some 225 per centum, although at times sewage enters the river through the storm water tanks at less than six times the present dry-weather flow.

The Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951, came into force as from October 1st, and the powers will be exercised, in this district, by the Bristol Avon River Board formed under the River Boards Act, 1948, to whom the prevention of river pollution was transferred from county councils and Local Sanitary Authorities.

W.P.R.B. Field Test for Sewage Effluents.

Weather conditions: Dry but previous 3 weeks very wet.

Estimated range of OXYGEN ABSORBED in 4 hours at 26.7°C
(Parts per 100,000 maximum 1.25, shewing the character of
the effluent to be Very Good.

Turbidity - Nearly Clear

Colour - None

Suspended matter Slight

Smell - None

The sewage under treatment at the moment is weak
owing to dilution with infiltration water. Under these
conditions this proves to be a very good effluent.

Examined by D.E. Tucker, Inspector of Pollution and
Fisheries.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

As from 1st. April the Town Council have under-
taken the weekly collection of house refuse by direct labour
and the work has been carried out without a single complaint.
The receptacles are placed at the kerbside by the Householder
on the day of collection.

The tip is at Calne Low about a mile to the east
of the town in worked-out sandpits owned by Messrs. E.H.
Bradley and Sons. The tip is sprayed with D.D.T. liquid
concentrate regularly each week during the summer months in
order to combat the fly nuisance, and is regularly inspected
and baited to prevent rat infestations.

SALVAGE

A weekly collection of salvage has been in operation
since June, 1940. The amount collected to date is 1675 tons
valued at £5720. 2.6. excluding Government Grants.

The actual tonnage for 1951 was 108 tons 6.04 cwts.
valued at £983. 3.2. or approximately a 7½ rate, mostly in
respect of waste paper which has increased in price by nearly
400 per centum since collection commenced.

There are some 50 communal bins placed at strategic
points throughout the district for the collection of kitchen
waste, which is sold in its raw state to National By-Products
Ltd. and dry rendered in a solvent extraction plant at
Messrs. C. & T. Harris' By Products factory in the Borough
and retailed by them to local farmers.

This tonnage for the twelve months under review
was 38 tons 13¼ cwts. representing in value about 11 per
centum of the year's income.

The communal bins are brought in periodically and
steam sterilised at the above plant by the kind co-operation
of Messrs. Harris.

HOUSING.

This year 44 'Reema' permanent pre-fabricated type houses have been completed and occupied. The actual time of erection was one house completed every $4\frac{3}{4}$ working days.

Altogether the Town Council have erected 457 houses under the various Housing Acts since 1919 (including 4 at Quemerford taken over from the former Calne R.D.C. in the Borough extension of 1934 and 2 in the Pippin sold to owner/occupiers). Included in this number are 166 houses erected since 1945. The Council also own 22 other houses in the district, including No. 3 Horsebrook, which is now permanently closed, and one house is rented.

In addition the Town Council have advanced loans to owner/occupiers under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899 to 1923 in respect of a further 53 houses. Under the Housing Act, 1923, lump sum payments have been made in 57 cases and the Council have subsidised 12 owners under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924.

Of the seven houses requisitioned under the Defence Regulations, two have now been de-requisitioned.

In other words, out of a total of 1755 houses in the area, the Council have either erected, requisitioned, own or have a financial interest in no less than 608 or approximately 35%.

No applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949 were approved during the year.

Eight houses were completed by private enterprise during the year.

Statistics shew that 717 private houses in the district are without a fixed bath or approximately only one house in every two private houses has such accommodation. However, taking Council houses into account the number is reduced to 40.85% over the whole district.

There are a number of houses in the district for which demolition is the only answer, and there is also a large number which rapidly approach this category through unarrested decay. The high cost of materials, coupled with the price of labour, together with the difficulty of obtaining the necessary Building Licence, often cause the repair of properties which have fixed rents to be an uneconomical proposition for the owner. No person can afford to have outgoings continually in excess of income, consequently the local authority and its public health officials are placed in an unenviable position.

With houses still in short supply wholesale demolition is out of the question and whilst the tenant rightly requests that his living conditions be improved or that he be effectively rehoused, the owner, for his part, cannot afford a comprehensive repair.

The number of applicants on the Council's housing list is 270, of which 177 applicants have no separate home.

Several cases of over-crowding were dealt with by the voluntary interchanging of Council house tenancies, arranged through the Council's Housing Officer, with the consent and encouragement of the local authority.

Altogether eighteen Building Licences were issued for the erection of new houses, to the value of £36,183.0.0.

HOUSING (Continued)

16 licences were granted for housing repairs, maintenance and improvement totalling £3501. 0.0. and 1 licence amounting to £464.0.0. was granted 'ex-ceiling'

RODENT CONTROL - PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The arrangement whereby the Town Council shared the services of a rodent operator with the Calne & Chippenham Rural District Council was terminated on 30th. June and the Council were fortunate in obtaining the services of a very keen part-time operator.

As usual the systematic treatment of sewers was carried out and the refuse tip, which is outside the area, was treated systematically by a firm under contract at three-weekly intervals.

A few major and minor infestations were found and all were dealt with, the estimated number of rats killed was 785.

Several large retail food-stores as well as the Bacon Factory have standing contracts with commercial firms, subject to the over-riding supervision of the rodent operator, and there is close co-operation between all parties concerned.

The following is a summary of the year's work:-

Number of dwelling houses inspected as result of		
	notification	26
"	" business and industrial premises inspected as a result of notification	5
"	" independent inspections made -	
	Local Authority properties	9
	Dwelling houses	137
	Agricultural properties	3
	Business and Industrial	26
"	" properties found to be infested by rats-	
	Dwelling houses	6
	" "	41
	Minor Infestations	
	Agricultural	3
	Minor Infestations	
	Business and Industrial	24
	Minor Infestations	
"	" properties found to be seriously infested, by mice	
	Dwelling houses	1
"	" infested properties treated by the local authority - Dwelling Houses	48
	Agricultural	3
	Business & Industrial	24

It was not found necessary to serve any notices under Section 4 of the Act.

The types of property in the district are as follows:-

Local Authority	5
Dwelling houses	1672
Agricultural	12
Business and Industrial	209

TOTAL:-

1898

RAG FLOCK.

Materials

The Rag Flock and Other Filling/Act, 1951, came into operation on 1st. November. The Act requires Upholsterers and others using filling materials to register their premises.

Premises used for the manufacture or storage of rag flock must be licensed. The Act requires local authorities to inspect such premises from time to time and to sample the filling materials found thereon.

Only one firm is registered in the district.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

General.

Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in connection with the handling, wrapping and delivery of food sold, or intended for sale for human consumption and in connection with the sale of food or exposure of food for sale in the open air came into operation on the 18th. day of September, 1950.

Dogs.

As recent investigations have shown that certain diseases may be conveyed by dogs, all owners of food shops were asked to display a notice on their premises advising the public in the following terms:- "In the interest of hygiene you are requested not to bring your dog into premises on which food is sold (signed) C.L. Broomhead, Medical Officer of Health."

Meat.

Since 7th. May, 1943, all slaughtering of animals to provide meat for human consumption has been centralised at Chippenham. There is a part-time Veterinary Inspector employed at the local Bacon Factory who reports regularly to the Medical Officer of Health.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, the number of licensed slaughtermen in the district is 15. They are all employed at Messrs. C. & T. Harris' Bacon Factory, whose slaughter house is now the only one licensed in the district under Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The handling of meat during transport at times leaves something to be desired, although during the last two or three months the men employed appear to be somewhat more conscientious.

There are two holders of Game Licences.

The amount of meat condemned by the Sanitary Inspector in the town was 99½ lbs. 5½ ozs. cooked ham, 2 lamb carcasses weighing 80 lbs. (emergency slaughter) and 10 lbs. bullocks liver (flake).

Fish.

There are three retailers of fresh fish and two fried-fish establishments in the district. The supply has been fair throughout the year and the trade is carried on satisfactorily.

Milk.

Under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Borough Council is responsible for the registration of dairies, other than dairy farms, and registration of milk distributors. They are also responsible, under these Regulations, for the provisions relating to the conveyance and distribution of Milk outside dairy farms (Sections 8, 11-14 and 18-31)

Milk (continued)

Other enactments affecting dairying are mainly, but not entirely, to be found in the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, the Milk, (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for seeing that the regulations relating to the production and handling of milk on dairy farms are observed, together with the issue or suspension and revocation of producers' licences and appeals arising therefrom.

The County Council as Food and Drugs Authority for the County area, with the exception of the Borough of Swindon, is responsible for granting of licences to pasteurisers and sterilisers, or their refusal, suspension or revocation and appeals thereunder as the case may be.

Two retailers hold Dealers' Bottling Licences to use the designation "Tuberculin Tested" Milk and one retailer has a Dealers' Retailing Licence to use the designations "Pasteurised" and "Tuberculin Tested" Milk, which is bottled in a neighbouring district.

There are also two retailers of ordinary milk resident in the district and two who operate from without.

There are no pasteurisation plants in the district.

Milk is supplied daily, during term, to the Secondary Modern, Secondary Grammar, C. of E. Junior, Guthrie Infant and Holy Trinity C. of E. Junior schools in the town.

Six samples of "Tuberculin Tested" milk were analysed for cleanliness and only one sample failed to comply with the prescribed standard.

In every case, with one exception, all milk is produced outside the district but retailed within the town area, and no other points have arisen to which special attention need be drawn.

Ice Cream

Fourteen premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, two of which are registered for manufacture as well as for sale.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced in getting samples to the analyst within a reasonable time.

The two manufacturers carry out their obligations in a satisfactory manner. The supplies to the other retailers are all prepacked.

Analyses of samples of both local and proprietary manufacture show them to be up to either Grade 1 or Grade 11 standards.

Other Foods.

During the year 1072 tins, bottles or jars of food-stuffs were condemned owing to the contents having become unfit through blown or damaged tins, faulty cappings, etc.

The food shops (including the five registered bake-houses) and vehicles are inspected from time to time. No official action has been necessary, either with regard to the vehicles, shops or the sanitary conveniences used in connection therewith. The number of food shops in the district remains at 32.

Shops.

No statutory action has been necessary under the Shops Act, 1950.

The number of inspections made for this purpose during the year was 45.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 which are required to be furnished by Sec. 128 (3) of that Act, with respect to the matters under Part I and Part VIII which are administered by the District Council.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

<u>PREMISES</u>	Number on Register	Inspns.	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.'s.	-	13	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which sec. 7 is enforced by L.A.	47	11	-	-
3. Other premises in which sec. 7 is enforced by the L.A. (excluding out-workers premises)	-	5	-	-
TOTAL:-	47	29	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Cases in which defects found				Prosec'ns Inst'd.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To HM Insp.	By HM Insp.	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp.	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Vent.	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences	2	2	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home- work).	-	-	-	-	-
	9	9	-	-	-

TOTAL:-

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

The following is a summary of the year's work under Article 27(18) of the Sanitary Officers' (outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Dwelling houses inspected	396
Re-inspections and visits	158
Inspections for housing records	66
Registered and licensed premises inspected	46
Miscellaneous sanitary duties involving visits	213
Complaints received and inspected	84

The tabulated list of major improvements is as follows:-

Number of new houses connected to main drainage system	49
Number of new houses connected to main water supply	52
Number of existing houses connected to main drainage system	2
New drain lengths constructed and tested	68
Drain obstructions cleared	34
W.C. obstructions cleared	6
New W.C.'s constructed to existing houses	11
W.C. pans repaired or renewed	27
New sinks, baths or lavatory basins fixed to existing houses	16
Houses disinfected	7
Houses redecorated internally	10
Floors repaired or renewed	22
Roofs repaired or renewed	76
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	23
External walls repaired	23
Walls re-plastered	25
Ceilings repaired or re-plastered	9
Rain-water pipes or gutters repaired or renewed	56
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	122
Waste pipes cleared, repaired or renewed	32
Minor repairs and miscellaneous	391

RODENT CONTROL

Dwelling houses inspected	166
Business premises inspected	31
Local Authority premises inspected	9
Infestations reported	31
Infestations discovered	44
Number of visits	485
Number of rats killed	785

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